

REMARKS

Upon entry of this amendment, claims 1-12, 14 and 15 are all the claims pending in the application. Claim 13 has been canceled by this amendment.

Applicants note that a number of editorial amendments have been made to the specification for grammatical and general readability purposes. No new matter has been added.

I. Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants thank the Examiner for indicating that claims 3-6 and 8-11 contain allowable subject matter, and would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

II. Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 101

Claim 13 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 as being directed to non-statutory subject matter. As noted above, claim 13 has been canceled by this amendment, thereby rendering this rejection moot.

III. Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1, 2, 7 and 12-15 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Ohmura et al. (US 2005/0071082).

Claim 1, as amended, recites that an adjustment unit is operable to adjust an extent to which the user shows resistance to the object. Applicants respectfully submit that Ohmura does not disclose or suggest at least this feature of amended claim 1.

In particular, Applicants note that the above-noted feature that has been added to claim 1

which indicates that the adjustment unit is operable to adjust an extent to which the user shows resistance to the object is generic to the features that are recited in allowable dependent claims 3 and 5, and therefore, respectfully submit that amended claim 1 should also be considered as allowable.

In this regard, Applicants note that because allowable claim 3 indicates that the adjustment unit is operable to reduce an extent to which the user shows resistance to the object, and allowable claim 5 indicates that the adjustment unit is operable to augment an extent to which the user shows resistance, that the above-noted feature recited in claim 1 which indicates that the adjustment unit is operable to adjust an extent to which the user shows resistance clearly encompasses the features recited in claims 3 and 5, and therefore, it is respectfully submitted that amended claim 1 is also patentable over Ohmura.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that at least the above-noted feature recited in amended claim 1 is not taught, suggested or otherwise rendered obvious by Ohmura. Accordingly, Applicants submit that claim 1 is patentable over Ohmura, an indication of which is kindly requested. Claims 2 and 7 depend from claim 1 and are therefore considered patentable at least by virtue of their dependency.

In addition, regarding claim 7, Applicants note that this claim indicates that the adjustment unit is a head mounted display operable to present a specified audio to the user so that the specified audio is audible from the direction of the object, or to prevent the specified audio from being audible from the direction of the object. Applicants respectfully submit that Ohmura does not disclose or suggest the above-noted feature recited in claim 7.

In particular, regarding Ohmura, Applicants note that this reference discloses a guide vehicle display device that displays a virtual guide vehicle running ahead of the vehicle in order to guide the vehicle to a destination (see Abstract). In this regard, as explained in Ohmura, if an intersection at which the vehicle is to be guided to turn left or right cannot be seen, the driver is informed by voice guidance that the vehicle is nearing an intersection at which the driver must make a turn (see paragraph [0207]).

Based on the foregoing description, Applicants note that while Ohmura discloses the ability to utilize voice guidance when an object (e.g., intersection) cannot be seen, that Ohmura does not disclose or suggest the ability to present the voice guidance to the user so that the voice guidance is audible from the direction of the object, or to prevent the voice guidance from being audible from the direction of the object.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that Ohmura does not disclose, suggest or otherwise render obvious the above-noted feature recited in claim 7 which indicates that the adjustment unit is a head mounted display operable to present a specified audio to the user so that the specified audio is audible from the direction of the object, or to prevent the specified audio from being audible from the direction of the object. Accordingly, Applicants submit that claim 7 is patentable over Ohmura, an indication of which is kindly requested.

Regarding claims 12 and 14, Applicants note that each of these claims has been amended to recite the feature of an adjustment step of adjusting an extent to which the user shows resistance to the object.

For at least similar reasons as discussed above with respect to claim 1, Applicants

respectfully submit that Ohmura does not disclose, suggest or otherwise render obvious the above-noted feature recited in claims 12 and 14. Accordingly, Applicants submit that claims 12 and 14 are patentable over Ohmura, an indication of which is kindly requested.

Regarding claim 15, Applicants note that this claim has been amended to recite the feature of an adjustment unit operable to adjust an extent to which the user shows resistance to the object.

For at least similar reasons as discussed above with respect to claim 1, Applicants respectfully submit that Ohmura does not disclose, suggest or otherwise render obvious the above-noted feature recited in claim 15. Accordingly, Applicants submit that claim 15 is patentable over Ohmura, an indication of which is kindly requested.

IV. Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may best be resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any deficiency or to credit any overpayment associated with this communication to Deposit Account No. 23-0975.

Respectfully submitted,

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